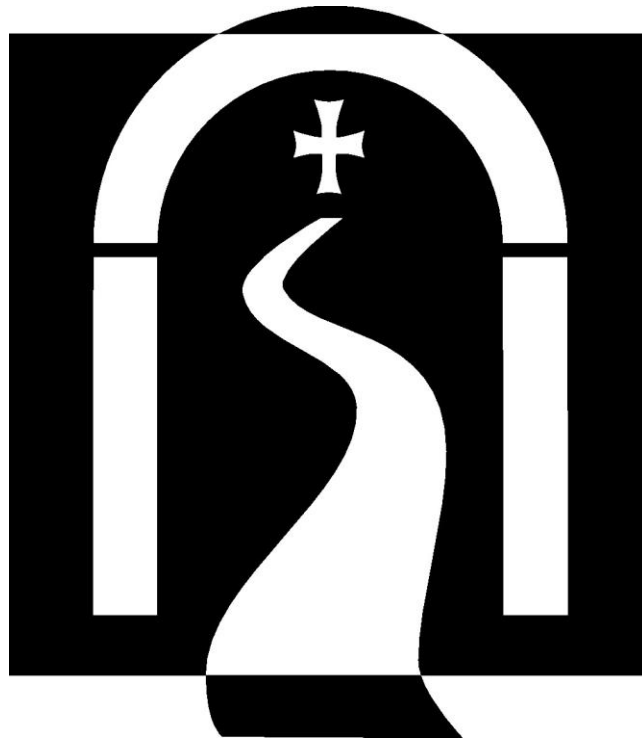


SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT



March 16, 2025

SAINT PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

WELCOME TO ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

SUNDAY SERVICES

8:15am | Service with Holy Communion in Nave
9:00am | Choir Practice
9:30am | Education Hour with Sunday School, Confirmation and Adult Forum
10:30am | Service with Holy Communion in Nave and Online
11:30am | Coffee Hour

LIVESTREAMING

Worship is streamed on the St. Paul Lutheran Facebook page. A Facebook account is not necessary to stream, however, without a Facebook account the stream works on a computer browser only and not on a phone.

WEEKLY UPDATE NEWSLETTER

Sign up for Weekly Update newsletter by going to our website at www.stpaularlinton.org and clicking on SUBSCRIBE.

SERVING THE COMMUNITY TODAY ARE:

Jennifer Parker, *Altar Guild*

Gus A. and Jud S., *Acolytes*

Mark Olson, *Lector*

Elizabeth Heichler, *Deacon*

Anne-Louise Klaus, *Cantor*

Andy Airasian and Dan Ries, *Ushers*

Hollie Schmidt, *Livestream Broadcast*

Peter and Hollie Schmidt and Lisa Chiulli Lay, *Coffee Guild*

When the instruction for standing appears, please stand as you are able and as seems comfortable. At the ☩, you may make the sign of the cross, which reminds us of our baptism. The congregational responses are printed in **bold**.*

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Prelude on "Aus der Tiefe"

C. S. Lang (1891-1971)

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate One,
**you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love,
but our lives do not always reflect you
and your love for the world.**

**We do not show others the tender compassion
you have shown to us.**

**We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality
you grant to all people.**

**We oppress others,
even though you have set us free again and again.**

We squander the abundant gifts of the earth.

**Transform our lives
and guide us again in the way of the cross.**

Amen.

Beloved in Christ,
God's arms are always stretched open wide
to welcome the wandering ones home.

In † Christ your sins are forgiven.

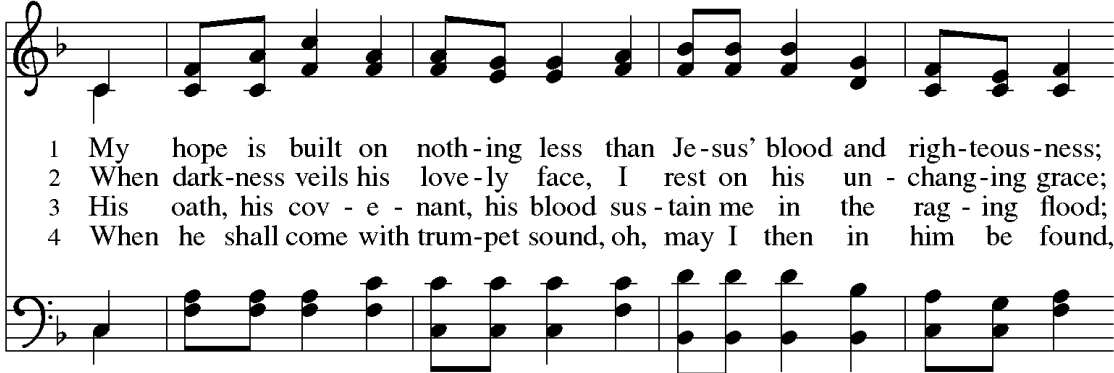
You have a place in God's house forever.

Amen.

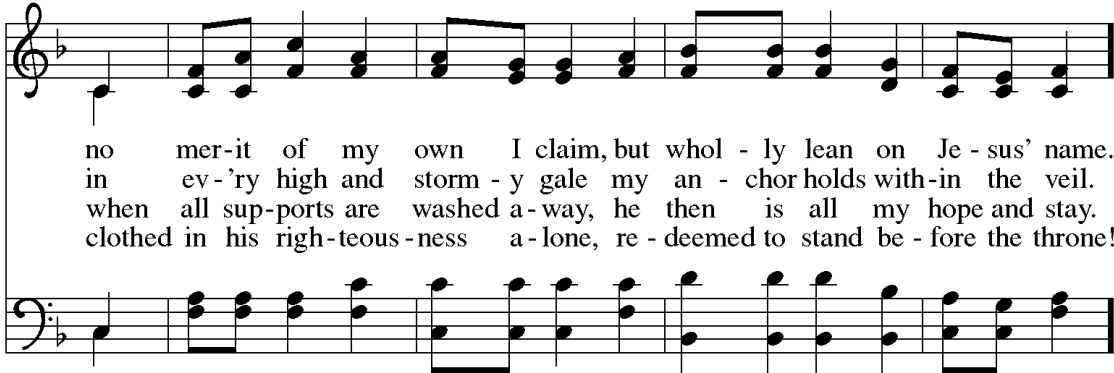
* GATHERING HYMN

“My Hope is Built on Nothing Less”

ELW 596

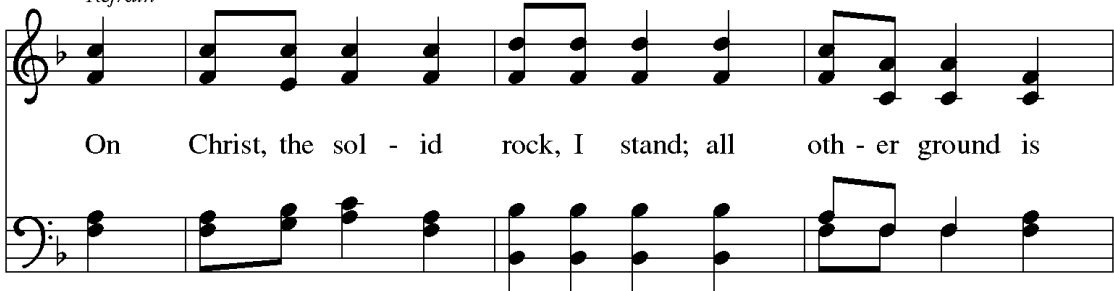


1 My hope is built on noth-ing less than Je-sus' blood and righ-teous-ness;
2 When dark-ness veils his love-ly face, I rest on his un - chang-ing grace;
3 His oath, his cov - e - nant, his blood sus - tain me in the rag - ing flood;
4 When he shall come with trum-pet sound, oh, may I then in him be found,

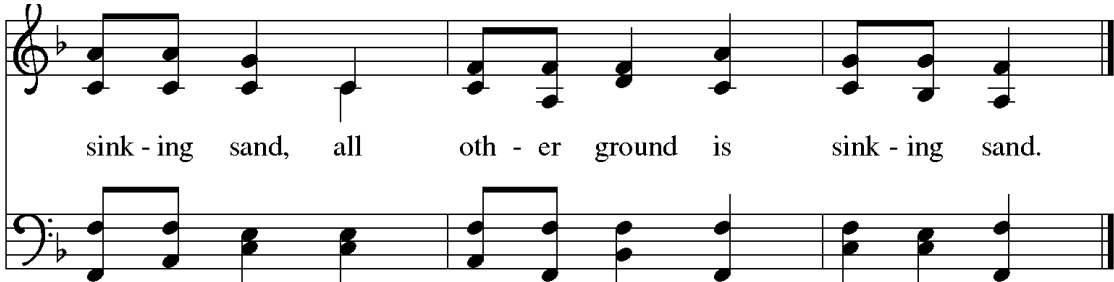


no mer-it of my own I claim, but whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
in ev - 'ry high and storm - y gale my an - chor holds with-in the veil.
when all sup-ports are washed a-way, he then is all my hope and stay.
clothed in his righ-teous - ness a-lone, re - deemed to stand be - fore the throne!

Refrain



On Christ, the sol - id rock, I stand; all oth - er ground is



sink - ing sand, all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

Text: Edward Mote, 1797–1874, alt.
Music: THE SOLID ROCK, William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868

*GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

*KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



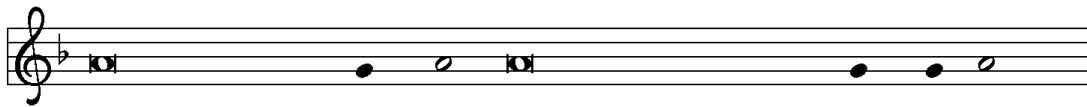
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - va - tion, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well - being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



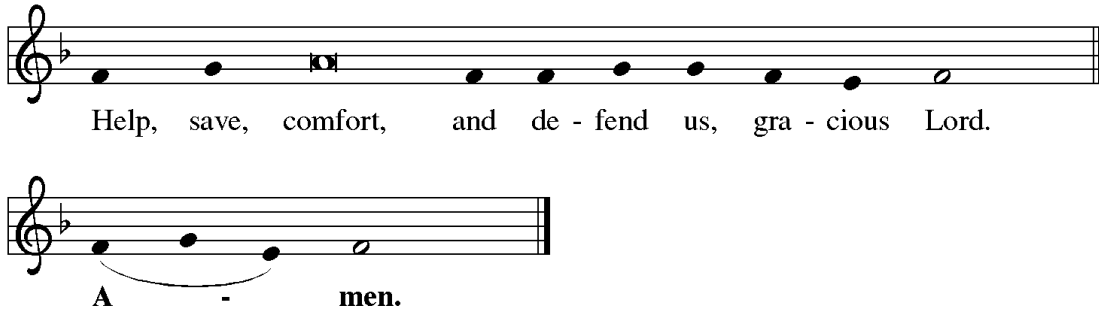
For this ho - ly house, and for all who of - fer here their wor - ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.
A - - - men.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Assisting minister



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.
All
Lord God, heav'n-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa - ther, we wor -
ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.
Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, O Lord God,
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world: have
mer-cy on us; you are seat - ed at the right hand of the
Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer. For you a - lone are the
Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord, you a - lone
are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

* PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of the covenant, in the mystery of the cross you promise everlasting life to the world. Gather all peoples into your arms, and shelter us with your mercy, that we may rejoice in the life we share in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING

Genesis 15:1—12, 17—18

God promises a childless and doubting Abram that he will have a child, that his descendants will be as numerous as the stars, and that the land of Canaan will be their inheritance. Abram's trust in God is sealed with a covenant-making ceremony, a sign of God's promise.

After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." But the word of the Lord came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." And he believed the Lord, and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

Then he said to him, "I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess." But he said, "O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other, but he did not cut the birds in two. And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom then ¹ shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I ¹ be afraid?

**When evildoers close in against me to de- ¹ vour my flesh,
they, my foes and my enemies, will stum- ¹ ble and fall.**

Though an army encamp against me, my heart ¹ will not fear.

Though war rise up against me, my trust will ¹ not be shaken.

One thing I ask of the Lord; one ¹ thing I seek;

**that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life; to gaze upon the
beauty of the Lord and to seek God ¹ in the temple.**

For in the day of trouble God will ¹ give me shelter,

hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high up- ¹ on a rock.

Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies ¹ who surround me.

**Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of rejoicing; I will sing and
make music ¹ to the Lord.**

Hear my voice, O Lord, ¹ when I call;

have mercy on me and ¹ answer me.

My heart speaks your message— ¹ “Seek my face.”

Your face, O Lord, ¹ I will seek.

Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your ser- ¹ vant in anger.

Cast me not away—you have been my helper; forsake me not, O God of ¹ my salvation.

**Though my father and my moth- ¹ er forsake me,
the Lord will ¹ take me in.**

Teach me your ¹ way, O Lord;

lead me on a level path, because of ¹ my oppressors.

Subject me not to the will ¹ of my foes,

for they rise up against me, false witnesses ¹ breathing violence.

This I believe—that I will see the goodness ¹ of the Lord

in the land ¹ of the living!

Wait for the Lord ¹ and be strong.

Take heart and wait ¹ for the Lord!

SECOND READING

Philippians 3:17—4:1

Although Paul’s devotion to Christ has caused him to be persecuted, he does not regret the course he has taken. Writing from prison, he expresses confidence in a glorious future and encourages other Christians to follow in his footsteps.

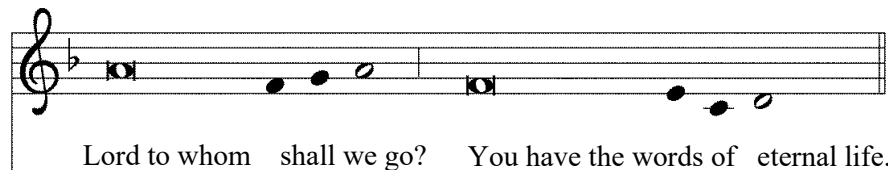
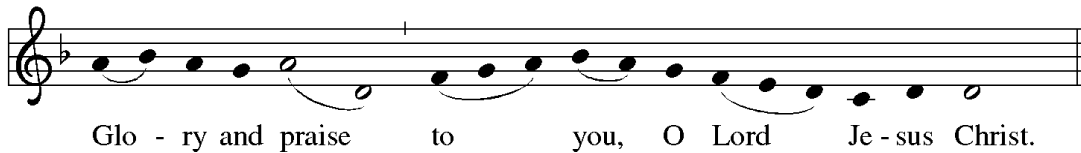
Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. Their end is destruction, their god is the

belly, and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

* GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (10:30 only)



* GOSPEL

Luke 13:31–35

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to [Jesus], "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.' Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

* HYMN OF THE DAY

"When Pain of the World Surrounds Us"

ELW 704



1 When pain of the world sur - rounds us with dark - ness and de -
 2 We see with . . fear and trem - bling our ach - ing world in
 3 The church is a ho - ly yes - sel the liv - ing wa - ters
 4 We praise you . . for our jour - ney and your a - bun - dant



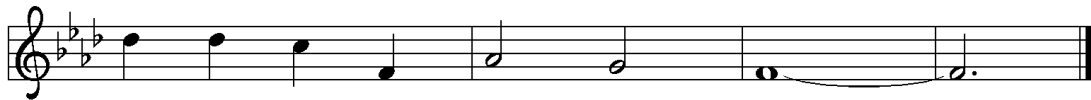
spair, when search - ing just con - founds us with
 need, con - fess - ing to each oth - er our
 fill to nour - ish all the peo - ple, God's
 grace, your sav - ing word that guid - ed a



false hopes ev - 'ry - where, when lives are starved for mean - ing and
 waste - ful - ness and greed. May we with stead - fast car - ing the
 pur - pose to ful - fill. May we with hum - ble cour - age be
 strug - gling hu - man race. O God, with all cre - a - tion, your



des - ti - ny is bare, we are called to fol - low Je - sus and
 hun - gry chil - dren feed. We are called to fol - low Je - sus and
 o - pen to God's will. We are called to fol - low Je - sus and
 fu - ture we em - brace. We are called to fol - low Je - sus and



let God's heal - ing flow through us.
 let God's jus - tice flow through us.
 let God's Spir - it flow through us.
 let God's chang - es flow through us.

Text: Jim Strathdee, b. 1941
 Music: CALLED TO FOLLOW, Jim Strathdee

APOSTLE'S CREED

In response to the gospel, let us confess the faith of the church:

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he

descended into hell. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

* PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The leader will read the first and last prayer, those in the congregation are invited to read aloud the other prayers as they feel called.

Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence

Holy God, you long to gather your church under your wings. Bless the churches of Jerusalem, and all persecuted churches, that your people may take heart and stand firm as they witness and minister in your name. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Holy God, you give shelter to living things as numerous as the stars. Strengthen the voice of prophets who call humanity to faithful care for the planet, that they would not be silenced but heeded as your messengers. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Holy God, you raised up leaders like Abram, Sarai, and Paul to show your people what it means to rely on your promises. Guide today's leaders to work for justice and safeguard the world for future generations. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Holy God, you are the stronghold of our life. Care tenderly for those who are ill in body or mind, and for people living in fear or need, especially Dan, Lynn, Meredith, Paul, and Susan. May all know they are not alone. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Holy God, you offer us citizenship in heaven. Unite communities of faith who are divided over earthly things, that following the way of your Son, they may set aside grudges and serve their neighbors with generosity and love. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Holy God, you are our light and our salvation. We give thanks for the saints who have gone before us, especially Patrick, Joseph, and Thomas Cranmer. Help us to trust in you as they did and to live according to their example. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.

Amen.

* PEACE *Keep your hands close together or make the peace sign if you'd rather not pass the peace with touch.*

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

ANTHEM

Ainsi qu'on oit le cerf bruire (*As the Deer, for Water Yearning*) Claude Goudimel (1510-1572)

1. Ainsi, qu'on oit le cerf bruire pour chassant les frais des eaux,
aussi mon cœur qui soupire, seigneur, après tes ruisseau,
va toujours criant suivant le grand, le grand Dieu vivant,
hélas donques, quand serace que verrai de dieu la face?

(1. As the deer for water yearning, seeks the stream's refreshing flow,
so my heart and soul are burning, thirsting, Lord, your life to know.
For the waters that revive I cry out to God alive: when shall I bow in your presence and behold
your face in rev'rence?)

2. Tears have been my daily portion;
"Where is God" they say to me.
I recall my deep devotion, singing thanks with spirit free.
Why are you cast down my soul? Will not, will not God your grief console?
I will praise my living Savior, God, my help and hope forever.

MEAL

* OFFERING PRAYER

Gracious Provider,
you set your immense treasures among us,
opening your heart to the world.
As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love,
deepen our commitment to sharing those
treasures with others,
through our Savior, Jesus Christ.
Amen.

OFFERING



You may give an offering through the Givelify app by scanning this QR code.

* GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

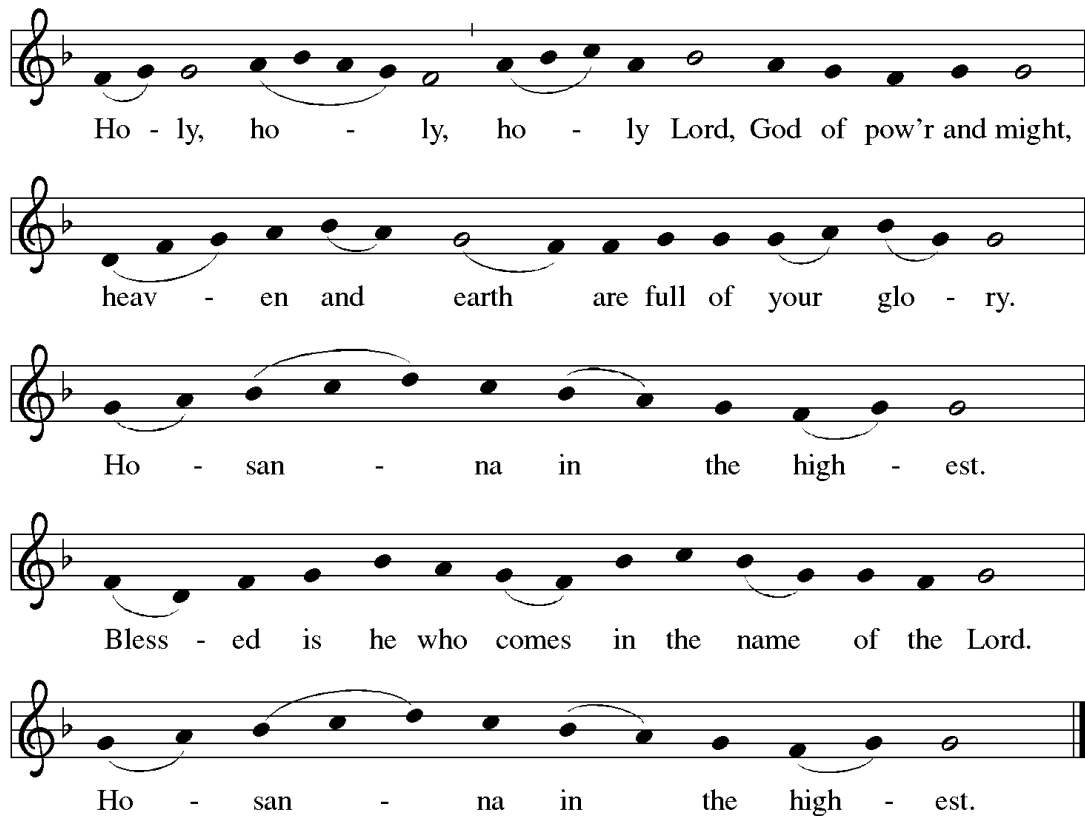
Lift up your hearts
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You call your people to cleanse their hearts
and prepare with joy for the paschal feast,
that, renewed in the gift of baptism,
we may come to the fullness of your grace.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.
Your mercy is everlasting
and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

All creation sings your praise.
Sun, moon, and stars reflect your glory.
Mountains, lakes, and forests declare your wonders.

With Sarah and Abraham we go out in faith, trusting your promise.
With Miriam and Moses we celebrate our deliverance from bondage.

With Naomi and Ruth we bind ourselves together in covenant love.
With Jonathan and David we delight in the gift of deep and abiding friendship.
With Mary and Elizabeth we welcome your presence in the birth of Jesus,
the Holy One.
With Lazarus, Martha, and Mary we give thanks for the blessings of family.
With disciples and followers we marvel at the reign of God come near.
With saints through the ages we ponder the mystery of Christ's dying and rising.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

With hearts full of memories and hopes,
we break this bread and share this cup,
remembering the death and resurrection of Christ,
and his promise to be with us always
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Holy God, holy and merciful one, holy and compassionate,
send upon us and this meal your Holy Spirit,
whose breath revives us for life,
whose fire rouses us to love.
Enfold in your arms all who share this holy food.
Nurture in us the fruits of the Spirit,
that we may be a living tree, sharing your bounty with all the world.
Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Holy and benevolent God,
receive our praise and petitions,
as Jesus received the cry of the needy,
and fill us with your blessing,
until, needy no longer and bound to you in love,
we feast forever in the triumph of the Lamb:
through whom all glory and honor is yours, O God, O Living One,
with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, now and forever.
Amen.

* LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen

COMMUNION

*All are welcome to receive the bread and the wine. Gluten free wafers are available on request.
Both wine (red) and grape juice (white) are available in each tray.*

Come forward in the center aisle starting at the front of the church. The pastors will motion the first people forward.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy
on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace. A - men.

COMMUNION HYMN (10:30 only)

“Around You, Lord Jesus”

ELW 468

1 A - round you, O Lord Je - sus, your own you gath - er still
 2 We hear your in - vi - ta - tion, and heed, O Lord, your call;
 3 We are your own for - ev - er; un - til our fi - nal breath

to share the feast you give us with grace our lives to fill.
 your word of con - so - la - tion is spo - ken here to all.
 we will be true and nev - er— in joy, in grief, in death—

You say to us so lov - ing - ly, “Take, eat! This is my
 It draws us to your lov - ing heart; it brings to us your
 de - part from you, for you are still a - mong your peo - ple

bod - y! Take, drink! This is my blood!”
 bless - ing, which nev - er will de - part.
 dwell - ing, as you have said you will.

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. composite
 Music: O JESU, ÅN DE DINA, H. Thomissön, *Den danske Psalmebog*, 1569

* TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

* PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Generous Host,
you have shared your feast with us and made us new.
Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities,
that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom,
in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

SENDING

* BLESSING

The peace of God,
which surpasses all understanding,
keep your hearts and your minds
in † Christ Jesus.
Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

* SENDING HYMN

"Guide My Feet"

ACS 987

Leader All

1 Guide my feet
2 Hold my hand
3 Stand by me while I run this race.
4 I'm your child
5 Search my heart

Yes, my Lord!

Guide my feet
Hold my hand
Stand by me while I run this race.
I'm your child
Search my heart

Yes, my Lord!

Guide my feet
Hold my hand
Stand by me while I run this race,
I'm your child
Search my heart

for I don't want to run this race in vain.

Text: African American spiritual
Music: GUIDE MY FEET, African American spiritual; arr. *This Far by Faith*

* DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

"Study on "Abridge"

C. C. Palmer, arr. Robert Gower

ANNOUNCEMENTS *and*
UPCOMING HAPPENINGS *at* **SAINT PAUL**



EASTER FLOWERS | Orders needed by April 7, 12pm

Time to order your flower orders in over the next few weeks. Forms are in the Upper Narthex. Pick from lilies, hyacinth, daffodils, tulips and hydrangea, ranging from \$9 -\$21.75.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Maundy Thursday – 7:30 service

Good Friday – 7:30 service

Easter Vigil – 7:00 service. Chocolate fountain and champagne after service.

Easter Sunday – 8:15 and 10:30 services. Fellowship Hall Breakfast potluck from 9:00-10:30. Pick up Hallelujah Chorus Choir for the 10:30 service will practice approx. from 9:30–10:00.

MIDWEEK LENT SUPPERS | Wednesdays in Lent March 12- April 9

Join us Wednesdays in Lent at 6:30 for a simple meal and fellowship, followed by worship with music of Holden Evening Prayer at 7:15 pm. Soup supper provided by the Turner/White family. Email Jennifer at parishadmin@stpaularingotn.org if you'd like to bring bread.

TRANSITION TEAM HAS BEEN FORMED & SAVE THE DATE

The St. Paul Church Council has assembled a Transition Team to help us give thanks for Ross's leadership, say goodbye, and look ahead to the future. The Transition Team will be Peter Hedlund, Sandy Walker, Norma Ofsthun, Nicole Rura, Dan Ries, Monique Airasian and Josh Davis. **Save the date for a celebration of ministry on Saturday, May 17, 4-7 pm.** There will be plenty of opportunities to help and participate as plans develop; we will continue to keep you updated!

ADULT FORUMS | March 16 at 9:30 am

The special five part Lenten Adult Forum series (9:30 am) continues next Sunday, March 23rd, featuring "Baptized, We Live--Lutheranism as a Way of Life" by Daniel Erlander and led by Josh Davis. Rather than defining Lutheranism as a system of doctrines, this series will focus on Lutheranism as a way of seeing, hearing, teaching and following. Free copies of the book are available in the Upper Narthex of the church and [here](#) also is a link for anyone who wants to access it online. We will be focusing on the "Way of Seeing" section this Sunday. All are welcome.



SAINT PAUL

LUTHERAN CHURCH

ARLINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS

www.stpaularlington.org | 781-646-7773

Staff

The Reverend Ross Goodman, *Pastor*

Samantha Menapace, *Vicar*

Ana Zecic Jeffers, *Director of Music*

Paul Ricci, *Business Administrator*

Sarah Carter, *Children, Youth and Families Director*

Jennifer White, *Parish Administrator*

Dennis O'Brien, *Church Property Manager*

Church Council and Officers

Kerri Frick, *President*

Sandy Walker, *Vice President*

Eric Haugen, *Treasurer*

Elizabeth Heichler, *Secretary*

Mark Olson, *Financial Secretary*

Kristen Anderson

Eric Carlson

Dave Hering

Kathleen Kean

Kevin Kreutter

Pierson Oliver

Taryn Walsh

Committees

Altar Guild

Faith Formation Committee

Intern Committee

Social Ministry Committee

Nomination Committee

Worship and Music Committee

Finance Committee

Audit Committee

Usher Committee

Chairperson

Marie Breitenbach

Bev Hjorth

Kristen Anderson

Janice Sniffen

Taryn Walsh

John Christiansen

Eric Haugen

Eric Haugen

Dan Ries and Andy Airasian



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

